QuickAlerts Messages August 2012

QuickAlerts –August 2, 2012
Subject: Encoding Protocol Change on Modernized e-File System

In an effort to continue to improve performance on the Modernized e-File (MeF) platform, the DIME encoding protocol will be retired in the ATS environment effective October 31, 2012, and in the Production environment effective January, 2013.
MIME and MTOM will be the only approved encoding protocols for the Application-to-Application (A2A) Service Requests.
Questions regarding this change should be sent to the mefmailbox@irs.gov
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QuickAlerts –August 3, 2012
Subject: Electronic Management System Availability

The Electronic Management System will be unavailable for all internet filing beginning Friday, August 3, 2012 from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. eastern time for an unscheduled outage.
We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and thank you for your cooperation.
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QuickAlerts –August 7, 2012
Subject: How to Become an IRS e-file Provider

Effective October 1, 2012, applications to become an IRS e-file provider must be submitted online. We will no longer accept paper e-file applications.
Become an e-file provider in 3 easy steps:
1. Create an IRS e-Services account.
2. Submit your e-file provider application online.
3. Pass a suitability check.
The online application process takes 4-6 weeks to complete – don't delay, become an e-file provider today!
Help is available at IRS.gov or through the e-Help Desk at 1-866-255-0654 (512-416-7750 for international calls), Monday through Friday, 6:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (CST). Frequently Asked Questions and online Tutorials are available to answer questions or to guide users through the application process.
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QuickAlerts –August 15, 2012
Subject: Scheduled Modernized e-File (MeF) Production and Assurance Testing System (ATS) Extended Labor Day Downtime

The MeF system will be down from 3:00 pm, Eastern on Friday, August 31st until 12:00 pm, Eastern on Tuesday, September 4th (Labor Day weekend). The extended outage is due to installation of a new power grid as well as routine operation and maintenance programs.
The Modernized e-File systems (both Production and ATS) will not be operational during this timeframe. Please refrain from accessing the MeF Production or Assurance Testing Systems to transmit business/individual/State tax returns, retrieve acknowledgements or submit any other service requests.
Important Note: States who schedule retrieval of their state submissions may have to change their schedule in order to retrieve submissions in time to validate returns and submit acknowledgements by 2:30 pm, Eastern on August 31st. Anything not retrieved thru MeF by 2:45 pm on August 31st, cannot be accessed again until MeF reopens on September 4th, 2012.
Deadlines on Friday, August 31, 2012 Eastern Time
Transmitters:

Transmitting Submissions (State & Federal)	1:00 pm
Retrieving Acknowledgements and Form 2290, Schedule 1	2:45 pm

States:

Transmitting Acknowledgements	2:30 pm

We apologize in advance for any inconvenience caused.
Please Note: The next tentatively scheduled power outage will take place during the Columbus Day weekend. A QuickAlerts will be issued with the actual timeframes for that outage.
Please check the MeF Status Page for updates.

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QuickAlerts –August 18, 2012
Subject: EMS Annual Labor Day Power Outage in Martinsburg, West Virginia

The Electronic Management System (EMS) located at Martinsburg, West Virginia will be unavailable from Wednesday, August 29, 2012 at 11 a.m. local submission processing center time through Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at 12:00 p.m. eastern time. The extended outage is due to installation of a new power grid as well as routine operation and maintenance programs.
EMS Participants Assurance Testing System (PATS) and Production will not be operational during this timeframe. Please refrain from accessing EMS Production or PATS to transmit business/individual/State tax returns, retrieve acknowledgements or submit any other service requests.
When services are resumed, all processing will occur and acknowledgement files will be

available based on the established drain schedule.
We apologize for this inconvenience and thank you for your patience.
Please Note:
The deadline for 1041 transmissions is Tuesday, August 28, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. local submission processing center time.
This power outage does not impact 94x filing.
The next tentatively scheduled power outage will take place during the Columbus Day weekend. A QuickAlerts will be issued identifying the timeframes.

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QuickAlerts –August 24, 2012
Subject: Labor Day Power Outage Planned

As we do each Labor Day weekend, we will have a planned power outage at the Martinsburg, W. Va. Computing Center. To minimize the effect this will have on processing, we will slowly begin bringing down our processing systems beginning Thursday morning, Aug. 30. Normal operations should resume after noon EDT on Tuesday, Sept. 4, 2012. Below are the major IRS services affected by this outage:
• All toll-free services, including the e-help desk and Practitioner Priority Service (PPS), will have limited service beginning Thursday, Aug. 30 through Friday, Aug. 31 at 4p.m. EDT and completely unavailable for the remainder of the outage period.
• The e-Services suite of services, including Disclosure Authorization, Transcript Delivery and TIN Matching will be unavailable beginning Friday, Aug. 31 at 1 p.m. EDT through the remainder of the outage period.
• Modernized e-file and the Legacy systems will be unavailable beginning Friday, Aug. 31 at 3 p.m. EDT and Wednesday, 11 a.m. EDT, respectively. Contact your software provider if you have questions concerning filing and refund processing times during the outage.
• Taxpayer Assistance Centers will keep their regular business hours but will have limited access to taxpayer account information. They can only take non-cash payments during the outage period.
We appreciate your patience while we perform this important recurring maintenance.

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QuickAlerts –August 28, 2012
Subject: Additional information regarding the EMS Annual Labor Day Power Outage in Martinsburg, West Virginia

Due to the extended power outage at the Enterprise Computing Center in Martinsburg, West Virginia, the deadline for 1041 transmissions to Martinsburg, WV and Memphis, Tennessee is today Tuesday, August 28, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. local submission processing center time. Form 1041 processing will resume on Tuesday September 4, 2012 at 12:00 p.m. eastern time.
In addition, the Electronic Management System (EMS) at Martinsburg, WV and Memphis, Tennessee will be unavailable for 1040 transmissions from Wednesday, August 29, 2012, at 11 a.m. local submission processing center time through Tuesday September 4, 2012, at 12:00 p.m. eastern time.
Please refrain from accessing EMS Production or BATS/PATS to transmit business/individual/State tax returns, retrieve acknowledgements or submit any other service requests.

EMS Testing and Production for Forms 1040 and 1041 will not be operational during this timeframe. When services are resumed, all processing will occur and acknowledgement files will be available based on the established drain schedule.
We apologize for this inconvenience and thank you for your patience.
Please Note:
This power outage does not impact 94x filing.